

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 PM-03 SP-02

INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 NSAE-00

L-01 OMB-01 /041 W

-----114331 211042Z /11

O 211018Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6136

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 4455

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652/ GDS

TAGS MASS, SU, US

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY SUDANESE REACTION TO REPORT OF
US MILITARY SURVEY TEAM

REF: KHARTOUM 4402

1. WE WILL BE SENDING BY SEPTTEL A ROUND-UP OF CODEL BONKER'S CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI ET.AL. WHICH CONCENTRATED LARGELY ON WHAT CONCERNED AFRICAN STATES AND US CAN DO IN LIGHT OF SOVIET MILITARY BUILDUP IN ETHIOPIA. DURING CONVERSATIONS, HOWEVER, WE ALSO RECEIVED PRELIMINARY REACTIONS OF NIMEIRI AND DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF TO SURVEY TEAM REPORT.

2. NIMEIRI ON DECEMBER 20 EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR U.S. EXPRESSION OF WILLINGNESS TO SUPPLY F-5S AND RADAR. HE SAID, HOWEVER, HE DID NOT FEEL HE WAS IN A POSITION TO MAKE A FURTHER REQUEST (I.E. AFTER SAUDI FINANCING OF GERMAN TRUCKS AND C-130S) TO KING KHALID FOR NECESSARY MONEY. HE SUGGESTED U.S. MIGHT ENCOURAGE SAUDIS OR IRANIANS TO MAKE A DIRECT TRANSFER OF THE NEEDED EQUIPMENT TO SUDAN.

2. ON DECEMBER 21, GENERAL ABD AL MAJID WAS SEVE MORE
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ADAMANT TO THE EFFECT THAT SUDAN COULD NO LONGER BE EXPECTED TO SEEK DONORS FROM FRIENDLY COUNTRIES. IT WAS UP TO U.S. TO FIND THE MEANS WHEREBY EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED BY THE U.S. WOULD BE FINANCED. HE ALSO LIKED THE DIRECT TRANSFER CONCEPT. THE DEPUTY COS ALSO EXPRESSED SOME CRITICISM OF THE REPORT'S TABLE OF PRIORITIES.

3. COMMENT: WE, OF COURSE, DO NOT KNOW THE FEASIBILITY OF THE DIRECT TRANSFER PROPOSAL. THIS SUDANESE REACTION DOES HOWEVER, ADD A NEW FACTOR TO BE CONSIDERED IN OUR PLANNING OF OUR FOLLOW-UP TO THIS REPORT. I THINK WE SHOULD HOLD IN ABEYANCE THE PLANS TO SEND EITHER GENERAL JAGGERS OR A SMALL TEAM TO THE SUDAN NEXT MONTH. DEPUTY COS SAID MILITARY WERE PREPARING COMMENT ON REPORT FOR PRESIDENT NIMEIRI WHO WOULD, IN DUE COURSE, BE DISCUSSING IT WITH ME. LET US AWAIT THAT DISCUSSION BEFORE CASTING OUR FOLLOW-UP PLANS IN CONCRETE. BERGUS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SURVEYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KHARTO04455
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770475-0874
Format: TEL
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771232/aaaabatu.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 522f16ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 KHARTOUM 4402
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Jul-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 160970
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRELIMINARY SUDANESE REACTION TO REPORT OF US MILITARY SURVEY TEAM
TAGS: MASS, SU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/522f16ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009